

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

**Donald Brent MARSHALL et al.**

Serial No.: 09/750,305

Filed: December 29, 2000

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
MANAGING DEPENDENCIES IN A  
COMPONENT-BASED SYSTEM

Examiner: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced  
patent application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, line 9, delete "services" and insert --Service  
Functionality--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 41, 43 and 47 as follows:

41. **(Amended)** A method of managing dependencies in a component-  
based system comprising: